In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended)   A method of planning a ~~Network~~ <u>telecommunications data network</u> which is capable of passing packet based data <u>traffic</u> therethrough, the method of planning comprising: determining a plurality of requirements for the <u>planned data</u> network; determining factors which effect the passage of said packet based data <u>traffic</u> through the <u>planned</u> network; modelling the performance of the <u>planned</u> network based on said requirements and said factors; comparing the performance of the <u>planned network</u> with an objective comparison model; <u>responsive to said step of comparing the performance of the planned network with the objective comparison model</u>, iteratively adjusting said factors to improve the performance and maintain the network requirements <u>of the planned network</u>; and outputting a plan of the network.

2. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network requirements are selected from the group comprising quality, incentive, cut-price and combinations thereof.

3 to 6 (cancelled)

7. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, and embodied as a software in machine readable form on a storage medium.

8. (currently amended)   A method ~~of planning a telecommunications packet network, the method~~ <u>as claimed claim 1 or claim 2 or claim 7, wherein the method of planning</u> ~~comprising;~~ <u>comprises:</u> specifying a bearer profile for the network; defining a protocol stack supporting said bearer profile; and determining a target voice quality for the network; wherein said target voice quality determination is effected as a trade-off between a set of voice quality benchmarks.

9. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said voice quality benchmarks comprise clarity, incentive and cut-price.

10. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said clarity benchmark is determined as voice quality as a primary factor.

11. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said incentive benchmark is determined as any combination of quality, convenience, compatibility, portability, mobility and low cost.

12. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said cut-price benchmark comprises a minimum price with a minimum acceptable quality.

13. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a transmission rating factor is calculated for the network.

14. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said transmission rating factor (R) is determined as

$$R = R_0 - I_s - I_d - I_e + A$$

where R_0 is a signal to noise ratio, I_s is the sum of real time voice transmission impairments, I_d is the sum of delayed impairments relative to the voice signal, I_e is an equipment impairment factor, and A is an advantage factor.

15. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein a budget allocation is determined from a combination of the transmission factor rating, the equipment impairment factor and a delay margin.

16. (original)   A network plan prepared by a method as claimed in claim 8.

17. (original)   A network plan as claimed in claim 16, and embodied in a digital signal.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 1, wherein said network plan is output ~~in the form of~~ as a software product.

20. (currently amended)   A network planning tool for planning a telecommunications data network which is capable of passing packet based data therethrough, the tool comprising: an input for inputting requirements of the planned network; an input for determining factors which effect the passage of said packet based data through the planned network; a modelling module for modelling the performance of the planned network based on said requirements and said factors; a comparer for comparing the performance of the planned network with an objective comparison model; a feedback mechanism responsive to an output of the comparer for iteratively adjusting said factors to improve the performance and maintain the planned network requirements; and an output for outputting a plan of the network.

21. (original) A network planning tool as claimed in claim 20, wherein said network requirements are selected from the group comprising quality, incentive, cut-price and combinations thereof.

22. (currently amended)   A network planning tool as claimed in claim 21, wherein said network requirements include voice quality benchmarks ~~comprise~~ comprising clarity, incentive and cut-price.

23. (original) A network planning tool as claimed in claim 22, wherein said clarity benchmark is determined as voice quality as a primary factor.

24. (original) A network planning tool as claimed in claim 23, wherein said incentive benchmark is determined as a combination of quality and low cost.

25. (original) A network planning tool as claimed in claim 24, wherein said cut-price benchmark comprises a minimum price with a minimum acceptable quality.

26. (original) A network planning tool as claimed in claim 20, and embodied as software in machine readable form on a storage medium.